DD/I

AD/BI

27 April 1961

39

Briefings for the Kilday Committee

Attached is a brief paper on Item 12. Basic Intelligence, describing the NIS Program as requested in your memorandum of 10 April.

25X1A9a

Distribution:
O & 3 - addressee
   1 - NIS Program (Gen) = Master file
   1 - Spec Studies
   1 - Xtra (with cover) — AD

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEY (NIS)

April 1961

25 April 1961

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEY PROGRAM (NIS)

Development of program

The NIS begins in July its fourteenth year of coordinated and programmed production of the world-wide basic intelligence required by the Government in its normal activities and in times of emergency.

The program was one of the first officially proposed after the end of World War II and was set in motion by National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 3 in 1948 to correct critical deficiencies in United States basic intelligence on foreign countries which had been forcefully demonstrated throughout the war. To provide in future for this type of encyclopedic intelligence on an integrated and fore-handed basis, in contrast to departmentalized and often divergent materials which led to the hastily organized joint JANIS country studies late in the war, NSCID No. 3 established the NIS as a long-range, cooperative, and coordinated intelligence requirement.

The NIS deals with the relatively permanent features and fundamental characteristics of foreign areas. The intelligence provided for use by policy, planning, and higher operational echelons is substantively evaluated but does not include projective estimates. NSCID No. 3 makes the Director of Central Intelligence responsible for coordinating the efforts of the United States Intelligence Board agencies and appropriate other components of the Government to produce the NIS in two phases: first, initial coverage of foreign areas in accordance with Joint Chiefs of Staff priorities and agency capabilities and, second, the systematic and continuous maintenance of the published NIS.

Content of the NIS

The standard NIS for one of some 120 designated foreign areas consists of a Brief and eight detailed chapters on Military Geography, Transportation and Telecommunications, Sociological, Political, Economic, Scientific, Armed Forces, and Map and Chart Appraisal.

Chapter discussion may be amplified by Supplements, such as on Ports and Naval Facilities. The standard content is appropriately modified for less complex countries. Each standard NIS includes as separate components a consolidated reference work on Key Personalities, and a Gazetteer of geographic names approved by the United States Board on Geographic Names. The major ocean basins are treated in the NIS on Marine Climate and Oceanography. The Section, dealing with a major subtopic of a topical Chapter, is the NIS basic unit of production and subsequent maintenance. While each such Section is an integral unit in the comprehensive NIS on an area, separate publication by Sections provides for flexibility in production, use, and maintenance.

Published outline guides for NIS topical content are jointly developed by representatives of the USIB agencies who with an advisory member from the Joint Chiefs constitute the permanent NIS Committee. The guides are amended from time to time to reflect experience and emerging basic intelligence requirements stemming from such developments as tactical helicopter use, importance of additional beaches for force dispersal, psychological warfare considerations, and scientific developments.

Production responsibilities

NIS production responsibilities are allocated among the USIB agencies according to agency intelligence responsibilities, specialization, and capabilities. One agency has final responsibility for a topical unit, but there is extensive multiple participation; for example, the Office of Naval Intelligence has primary and coordinating responsibility for Coasts and Landing Beaches sections to which specialized contributions are made by the Hydrographic Office of the Navy, the Transportation Corps of Army, and several components of the Corps of Engineers. Other USIB agencies contribute portions of the Sino-Soviet bloc Economic chapters for which the Office of Research and Reports, CIA, has responsibility. The program not only draws upon information and specialized knowledge throughout the Government but makes extensive use of NIS material produced by non-USIB agencies; in addition to most Sociological and Political topics State is the USIB agency with prime and coordinating responsibility for free-world

Economic chapters, to which components of Agriculture and Interior
make major contributions, as do also specialized Army, Navy, and
Air Force components and the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Com-
mittee. The Department of Labor has begun production of free-world
Manpower sections, and under supervisory contract with the Office of
Scientific Intelligence, CIA, the Public Health Service produces the
Health and Sanitation content of NIS Sociological chapters.

Army, Navy, Air Force, and the producing offices in CIA each
provide the funds and staffing for their allocated NIS research and
production, which is essentially integrated with their other intelligence
activities, and for the related NIS review and coordination. Through
the Office of Basic Intelligence, CIA provides annual budgetary support
for an NIS producing and coordinating staff within the Bureau of Intel-
ligence and Research at State, and for the considerably smaller staffing
which utilizes established departmental resources in producing NIS
subcontributions in Agriculture, Interior, and Public Health Service.

Completed drafts for the NIS, including maps, photographs and
other graphics, are submitted in accordance with agreed scheduling
to the Office of Basic Intelligence, CIA. The OBI staff is responsible
for coordinating and reviewing the contributions in terms of NIS sub-
stantive standards, and processes the material for printing by CIA
facilities. Because individual contributors do not see the full range
of various topical manuscripts which OBI is concurrently processing
at a given time, the OBI staff provides an essential over-all coordina-
tion function in which conferences with contributor personnel is an
extensive and constructive aspect. OBI also provides an NIS continuity
which is of major importance in view of relatively rapid turnover of
research-analysis personnel in the contributing organizations.

- 3 -

Programming of production and collection

On the basis of Joint Chiefs area priorities and the available production capabilities of the contributors, the interagency NIS Committee develops in advance a month-by-month scheduling of NIS production by topics and areas for each fiscal year. This is extended by a production Forecast for three years ahead; while subject to adjustments in the light of world developments and changing contributor capabilities, the Forecast alerts both producing personnel and collection components of targets for research and collection, particularly in terms of collection to fill significant intelligence gaps surfaced in the NIS process.

The NIS is based on a continuing collection-research-production process. Timely and organized stimulation of collection of basic information from foreign areas and all other appropriate sources is of prime importance. Even when considerable information already is at hand, sources are varied and frequently contradictory, and require the NIS processing before intelligence requirements are met. Experience has repeatedly demonstrated the importance of having published NIS and back-up data on hand--both in Washington and the field--when critical foreign situations arise, time is of the essence, and field collection becomes immeasurably more difficult if not virtually impossible. The data collected and processed by the contributing agencies necessarily are more comprehensive and detailed than those appearing in the printed NIS and, complementing the already-evaluated information provided by on-hand NIS, constitute a revolving inventory of basic information which these agencies in any event would require for specialized departmental purposes.

The NIS facilitates systematic foreign collection of basic intelligence. Published NIS available to collectors show what information Washington has, more closely pinpoint collection targets, and provide informative background for military attaches and others who may be required to collect data in subject fields where they may not be specialists. Increasingly the NIS outline guides are being followed in departmental collection directives and specific requirements. Each NIS chapter includes Comments on Principal Sources which evaluate the current status of information on foreign areas and indicate major gaps; in producing NIS drafts researchers make detailed notes on information needed which are converted into departmental requirements levied on field collectors. It is practice to send draft NIS contributions to the field before publication, facilitating field verification, correction, amplification, or updating.

Status of production

The number of NIS topical units produced to date totals more than
5400, of which approximately 1100 are maintenance revisions of initial
units. This represents some 80% of initial world-wide coverage, and
essentially complete coverage of the Sino-Soviet bloc and other high
priority areas as initially designated by the Joint Chiefs. These data
are graphically shown in the attached three items from the NIS annual
report for FY 1960. In accordance with initial Joint Chiefs guidance
the annual scheduled production commitment has been 8 equivalent NIS,
or somewhat more than 500 production units. From the build-up of
NIS production following the dislocations of the Korean War, this annual
commitment has been approximated until fiscal years 1960 and 1961,
when budget and manpower reductions and diversions from NIS work in
the contributing agencies have reduced production to a level of 7 equivalent
NIS per year.

Production at this level does not permit concurrent early completion
of full-scale initial world coverage, in which Africa and Latin America
have been advanced to high priority in the latest Joint Chiefs guidance,
and the accelerated maintenance of published NIS required to include not
only more recent basic information and intelligence evaluation but coverage
of new substantive requirements. Therefore the NIS Committee has
recently obtained USIB approval for undertaking a number of emergency
measures designed to significantly increase the number of priority topics
and areas which can be given NIS coverage by the existing production level.
These measures include suspension of production on certain low priority
areas, stop-gap Chapter I (Brief) type coverage of some 30 newly
emerging states and other underdeveloped areas, and increased
selectivity in the topics and areas scheduled for maintenance.

Scope of use

To date a total of approximately 2,300,000 individual NIS units have
been printed for dissemination to domestic and overseas components of
the departments of Defense and State, to CIA, and to an increasing
number of other Government agencies. Among the latter are USIA and
ICA, where the NIS is now a key item in preparation of personnel going
to foreign areas, Commerce, Labor, Export-Import Bank, OCDM, the
Federal Reserve Board, Interior, Development Loan Fund, Agriculture,
Maritime Commission, HEW, Treasury, and National Aeronautics and
Space Administration. These requirements, on a need-to-know basis,

in some instances are for all NIS and in others are for selected topics and/or areas appropriate to agencies' activities. Ad hoc disseminations are made to certain other Government activities and such recipients as Defense special consultants and contractors when the USIB approves access to the NIS as in the national interest. In addition to arrangements which have been made for emergency reproduction of all NIS at dispersed facilities, complete sets of the printed NIS are maintained at a number of secure installations from which NIS could be drawn under emergency conditions.

The importance of the on-hand availability of the NIS was emphasized in 1950 when, at the time of the stresses and disruptions of the Korean War, General Marshall as Secretary of Defense stated that "The Department of Defense recognizes the importance of maintaining the production of National Intelligence Surveys on a regular basis, undiminished by fluctuations in the world situation which result in heavy demands upon its intelligence agencies." This assessment was confirmed by an NIS Committee post-Korea survey of use of the NIS by the military establishment. Urgent demand for the NIS on Egypt at the time of the Suez crisis in 1956 included a pressing request for the NIS ███████████████████ CINCNELM reported to the Navy that at the time of the Lebanon landings by U.S. forces in 1958 the NIS was widely used by all of the Commands involved and, for COMSIXTHFLT, constituted the most important single source of both general and specific information required.

25X1X7

The Report on Intelligence Activities to the Congress in June 1955 by the Clark Task Force of the Hoover Commission stated: "The NIS is an invaluable publication which provides the essential elements of basic intelligence on all areas of the world. While its production involves an extensive and expensive effort, all members of the intelligence community derive an immediate benefit from the contributions they make to it and profit from the final product. There always will be a continuing requirement for keeping this survey up to date." After five subsequent years which have included new African and Far East crises the Joint Chiefs of Staff have in 1961 reached a comparable evaluation of the NIS in their report, based on a survey of all unified and specified commands and principal Defense components, which emphasizes the military establishment's requirement for early completion of initial coverage and accelerated maintenance of substantially the entire NIS program as presently constituted.

NIS Program -- Attachments

Tab A - NIS Published and in Process

Tab B - Status of NIS Production by World Areas

Tab C - NIS Area Coverage (Map)